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LAFAYETTE VISTAS

Summer Construction Season in Full Swing

If you're beginning to feel that all of Lafayette has always been under construction – you can take heart. This is the third year of our five-year road and drain capital improvement program, so we're more than half-done! Part of the City's continuing effort to aggressively maintain and upgrade Lafayette's infrastructure, this summer's $4.5 million capital improvement program is using funds from the Road and Drain Bond Measure passed in 1995, as well as money from the City's general fund and individual grants. The look of our downtown is also being improved by private development as construction projects including the initial phase of the Town Center's "Bart Block" project and the La Fiesta Square rehabilitation are underway.

SUMMER 1999 CONSTRUCTION

1 1999 City-Wide Road and Drain Rehabilitation

More than 20 streets are scheduled for rehabilitation work including slurry seals, crack seals, digout repairs and overlays. If you live near or travel through one of the construction zones, you may be inconvenienced over the summer. Please be patient, allow for extra travel time during posted work periods, and drive carefully. You'll notice an improvement in your neighborhood soon!

Total Project Cost: $1.1 Million

2 St. Mary's Rd. from Florence Dr. to City Limits

Long, overdue upgrades to the southern section of St. Mary's Rd. will include a new pedestrian walkway from Driftwood Dr. to So. Lucille Lane, as well as pavement repair, storm drain system improvements and slide repairs. There will be temporary lane restrictions on St. Mary's Road throughout the summer; the street will be closed for up to two weeks during the final pavement overlay. Signage will provide details about temporary closures and work hours as the project progresses.

Total Project Cost: $1 Million

3 New Upper Happy Valley Rd. Walkway

Aggressive fundraising on the part of the Happy Valley Improvement Association and a partnership with the City will result in a uniform 4' wide, mile-long asphalt walkway along Upper Happy Valley Rd., from El Nido Ranch Rd. to Happy Valley Rd. Neighborhood residents raised $75,000 to fund approximately one-third of the total project cost for the walkway which will also include a 6" high asphalt berm separating it from the roadway, and wooden retaining walls at certain sections of the path.

Total Project Cost: $220,000

4 Acampo Dr. and Hamlin Rd. Street Rehabilitation

A complete reconstruction is in store on these streets, which will be closed to thru traffic during work hours from early July to early September. The new construction will include a 4' wide pedestrian pathway along the western side of Acampo Drive, a popular drop off area for students attending Stanley Intermediate School. This summer's work is the initial phase of a two-part project to be completed next summer with the installation of a new storm drain system and reconstruction of nearby Solana Drive.

Total Project Cost: $420,000

New Faces On The City Staff

Vistas welcomes three new members to the Lafayette City staff. Their positions are not newly created, but became vacant when former staffers left.

Luana Capponi, Associate Engineer

Luana joined the City staff in April, bringing experience as a project engineer in Florence, Italy as well as with the IT Corporation in Martinez, the US Army Corps of Engineers, the US Air Force, the Department of the Interior, and the National Park Service (Western Region) for Yosemite and Grand Canyon National Parks. She earned her engineering degree at the Polytechnic School of the University of Florence.

Duties: This summer Luana will assist other City engineers in general project management and site inspections. At the same time, she will be heading up projects on Pleasant Hill Road and First Street. Luana will manage the design of repavement, landscaping and traffic signal upgrades on these projects.

Luana's Objectives: To use the technical and diplomatic skills she gained while working on large federal projects and apply her experience regarding environmental issues and engineering projects for the benefit of Lafayette residents.

JoAnn Contreras, Transportation Planner

JoAnn worked in the City's Planning Division for a year before assuming the responsibilities of Transportation Planner at the beginning of 1999. Before joining the City, she worked for the Municipality of Anchorage, AK as an Associate Planner for 15 years and as an Assistant Planner for 5 years.

Duties: JoAnn serves as the staff aide to the Circulation Commission which handles issues relating to traffic congestion, speeding, and vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle circulation. She is also the staff liaison to the SouthWest Area Transportation Committee (SWAT), a branch of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) and is involved in the allocation and distribution of Measure C funds. JoAnn also works very closely with the Community Development Director and serves as the City's grant writer.

JoAnn's Objectives: To focus her experience and expertise on circulation and transportation issues; to procure funds through grants in striving to maintain and enhance Lafayette's character and lifestyle.

Jenny Soo, Assistant Planner

Before joining the City staff in March, **Jenny** spent four years working as a Planner for the City of San Dimas in Southern California and three years with the City of Albany. She graduated from Cal Poly Pomona with a degree in Urban and Regional Planning.

Duties: An essential member of the City's Planning Division, Jenny handles public inquiries in person and on the phone. She also processes all forms issued by the Planning Division including design review and variance applications, as well as land use permits. Jenny also serves as the staff aide to the City's Economic Development Commission, which actively seeks to bring a diverse range of new businesses to town.

Jenny's Objectives: To put herself in the "shoes" of Lafayette's residents in order to understand their needs, address their concerns, and fully answer their questions.

City Settles Palos Colorados Lawsuit

The City Council recently agreed to settle its lawsuit over the Palos Colorados 123-unit housing complex and golf course. The development will be built in Moraga on property that borders Lafayette. The developer of the property has agreed to modifications to the originally proposed project that the City believes will relieve significant regional impacts that would otherwise have adversely affected Lafayette and the quality of life of its residents.

If approved by the town of Moraga, these modifications will include protecting views to the dominant southern ridgeline by limiting homes visible from certain locations in Lafayette to one-story and by retaining the existing oak woodlands. New oaks will also be added to conceal rooflines that would otherwise intrude into the existing skyline. These requirements will be perpetuated for the long term by means of deed restrictions.

A number of traffic mitigation provisions in the modified plan will be used to pay for traffic and road improvements needed to accommodate additional vehicles. There will be a one-time, $3,750 per-house traffic impact fee and a $5/round charge that will begin after the golf course has been open for three years. Lafayette will receive $2.50 of the $5 and has agreed to use the funding to fix roads and purchase open space.

The developer also agreed to other modifications including: relocating the proposed pedestrian foot trail system away from Lafayette Valley Estates; decreasing the impact of storm water run-off into Las Trampas Creek; protecting Lafayette Valley Estates from additional drainage from the project, and eliminating the emergency vehicle access as originally proposed to Mildred Lane through Lafayette Valley Estates.

Lafayette Trivia

Did you know . . . that 24% of Lafayette's residents rent and do not own their place of residence? The other 76% are homeowners.

Source: 1990 U.S. Census

Top Ten Ways to Spare the Air

We all contribute to Bay Area smog. Driving, painting, even the type of consumer products we use create emissions that form smog. In the warmer temperatures of summer, smog is a bigger problem but, we can all do our part to help. Try these ways to **Spare the Air!**

1 Don't Drive – Cars are **THE** major source of air pollution in the Bay Area. Before jumping into your vehicle to run an errand or go to work, consider an alternative. Can you get to your destination by walking, biking or public transit?

2 Take Transit – The Bay Area is served by several transit agencies. Take transit and treat yourself to a stress-free commute! Public transit can get you to just about any event or weekend activity that might be in your plans. Call 817-1717 (toll-free from most Bay Area phones) for more information.

3 Carpool – Whether you're driving to work, the gym, or a baseball game, find a carpool partner. Take turns driving and give yourselves a break from road-stress. Some employers have a Guaranteed Ride Home program that makes cars available to carpoolers and transit-takers in case of emergency or any situation in which your original ride might be unavailable to you.

4 Telecommute – If you can arrange to telecommute from home you'll save commute time and expenses. Whether you choose to do this full-time or just one day a week, you will be making a difference. It is estimated that a little over one pound of pollution is saved when you and your car stay at home.

5 Refuel in the evening and don't top off – Putting gas into your vehicle releases Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) into the air. Throughout the day, these VOCs mix with oxides of nitrogen (NOx) in the air, "cook" in the summer heat and form ground-level ozone. Refueling in the evening decreases the opportunity for VOCs to form into ozone.

6 Trip-link – Cold engines pollute five times more than warm ones. A cold engine is one that has been sitting for over an hour. Link all of your errands together into one trip to minimize cold starts.

7 Avoid consumer spray products – In the Bay Area, 45 tons per day of pollution come from spray products. These include hairspray, cooking sprays, bathroom cleaners, air fresheners, antiperspirants, insecticides and craft sprays. Environment-friendly choices include solids, sticks and gels.

8 Use water-based paints – Oil based paints and varnishes contain a high percentage of VOCs that evaporate into the atmosphere and create smog. Water-based, latex paints are less polluting and easier to wash off your hands and equipment.

9 Barbecue as much as you like – just DON'T USE LIGHTER FLUID! Lighter fluid literally goes up in smoke, causing a half-ton of smog each day in the Bay Area. Try using an electric or a chimney briquette starter instead – you'll actually get a faster start.

10 Ban gasoline-power from lawn & garden chores On an hour for hour basis, a gasoline-powered lawn mower produces as much pollution as 40 new cars. On Spare the Air days, put off lawn care for a day or two until the air is cleaner – then get a good cardiovascular workout by pushing that trusty, old, hand mower!

Around Town

Sept 18 & 19 **4TH ANNUAL ART & WINE FESTIVAL** Sat: 10 am – 7 pm, Sun: 10 am – 5 pm, Downtown Lafayette. Arts & Crafts booths, wine & micro-brewed beer, restaurants & vendors, live music; downtown parade Sunday morning, a "kidzone" for all ages. Benefits local arts and education. This is also your opportunity to meet your Council members at the City's Booth, and the only place to get your FREE **"Love Lafayette"** bumper sticker. Call the Chamber: 284-7404.

Love Lafayette

Oct 18 **GOLD COAST CHAMBER PLAYERS –** 1st of 3 concerts, 8 pm at Town Hall Theatre. Tickets: 283-1557, Info: 283-3728

Oct 31 **LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR RUN –** One of northern California's most beautiful courses. 7 am: registration; 8 am: 10K & 5K run/walk, or 2 mile men's & women's: elementary, intermediate, high school, adult. 10 am: "Kiddie Run" for ages 7 & under. Downtown Lafayette. Benefits local schools and the Chamber Registration & info call the Chamber: 284-7404.

TOWN HALL THEATRE: Upcoming Shows
Box Office: 283-1557 Open Tues-Sat: 1-6 pm.

8/11 – 29: Irma LaDouce

9/16 – 10/10: Laughter on the 23rd Floor

10/28 – 11/21: The Town Criers Sing Gershwin

CITY PARKS & RECREATION – 284-2232

ADVENTURE CAMP: July 19 – August 6, Noon – 5:00 pm; ok to sign up on a weekly basis.

ROLLER HOCKEY: Sept. 17 – Nov 17.

TEEN TRIPS/PROGRAMS – 284-2232
(6th – 12th grade)
(Volunteer chaperones needed for teen events)

7/29: *WATERWORLD:* 9:30 am – 5:30 pm, $24.

8/5: *MARINE WORLD:* 8:30 am – 9:00 pm, $34.

8/7: *RIVER RAFTING I:* 7 am – 9 pm, $74.

8/19: *RIVER RAFTING II:* 7 am – 9 pm, $74.

FLIPSIDE DANCE CLUB: 4th Sat of month, 9 pm-Midnight, $5, High School ID required.

Election of City Council Members
November 2, 1999

The City Clerk is now issuing and receiving nomination papers for three, 4-year seats on the Lafayette City Council. **Deadline to file:** August 6, 1999, 5:00 pm; however, if an incumbent does **not** file, the deadline date will be extended to August 11, 1999, 5:00 pm, for all other candidates. For more information, call the City Clerk, 299-3212.

HISTORIC SNAPSHOTS

Part 7:
Celebrating Lafayette
in the 1930s & 40s

In this seventh installment of "Historic Snapshots," we highlight two annual celebrations that brought festivities and fame to Lafayette and provided for expression of community spirit during the Depression and the years leading to the Second World War.

Although the Depression cast a pall on Lafayette's social activities, by the mid-1930s, the area was hosting a good number of garden parties, theatre parties and community dances. Holiday celebrations and church and school functions had long been an important part of Lafayette's social life, and many of the most popular amusements at this time were held to raise money for community needs and facilities.

Two wildly popular annual events that took place from the mid-1930s through the mid-1940s were the "Fiesta de Lafayette" (sometimes referred to as the "Forty-niner Festival" in honor of the Gold Rush days) and the Lafayette Horse Show.

Horsemen's Association Parade in Lafayette, early 1940

The first Fiesta was held in 1934 to raise funds to build tennis courts and playgrounds on Lafayette school property. Although the Fiestas were held every year through 1942, the 1936 Fiesta achieved notoriety due to a difference of opinion among members of its planning committee. It seems that the men wanted to invite a voluptuous blonde nudist queen from southern California to promote their efforts. Not surprisingly, the ladies on the committee strongly favored a fully-clothed local lass reigning over the festivities. Rumor has it that the debate in 1936 received more attention than the Fiesta itself!

Most of the weekend Fiestas featured dancing at the Lafayette Town Hall on Friday and Saturday evenings. There were also "robust amusements" including boxing and wrestling on Saturday and parades featuring floats and hundreds of horses on both Saturday and Sunday mornings.

The Lafayette Fiestas of the 1930s and '40s led to the naming of the La Fiesta Square shopping area, located at the intersection of Moraga Rd and Mt. Diablo Blvd. Today, that newly and beautifully rehabilitated retail center represents a distant link to a simpler time in Lafayette.

The first annual Lafayette Horse Show, run by the Lafayette Horsemans' Association, was held in conjunction with the 1935 Fiesta de Lafayette. The annual event, which drew thousands of people to the City from all over the Bay Area, continued to be held through 1944. It took place in a specially constructed arena at the old Hamlin Ranch near the intersection of St. Mary's Rd. and Solana Dr., where parking was provided for several hundred trucks and cars. Some of the events listed in the program for the 1936 Lafayette Horse Show included competitions for pleasure horses, saddle stallions, pintos, buckskins, hackamores, stock horses and colts-in-hand.

Those who attended these shows remember them fondly and with a sense of melancholy. They also note that the Horse Shows probably drew more people to Lafayette than any other single special event held before or since.

CITY DIRECTORY

Leave your Council Members a message!
Call 284-1968

Council Members		EXT.
Erling Horn	**Mayor**	271
Jay Strauss	**Vice Mayor**	270
Ivor Samson	**Council Member**	272
Don Tatzin	**Council Member**	274
Anne Grodin	**Council Member**	273

For messages to **all** Council Members: **907**

Administration

General Reception and	**284-1968**
Steven Falk, City Manager	**Fax: 284-3169**
Rebecca Lee, Director Admin. Srvcs.	**299-3227**
Gonzalo Silva, Financial Srv. Mgr.	**299-3213**
Sue Jusaitis, City Clerk	**299-3212**

Community Development

• **Engineering Services**	**284-1951**
Tony Coe, Manager	**299-3203**
• **Planning Services**	**284-1976**
Mike Henn, Manager	**Fax: 284-1122**
• **Public Works Services**	
Ron Lefler, Manager	**299-3214**

Lamorinda School Bus Program

Juliet Shanks, Analyst	**299-3216**
	Or 299-3215

Parks and Recreation — 284-2232

Jennifer Russell, Director	
Yvonne Ozorio, Senior Services	**284-5050**
Teen Programs	**284-2232**

Police Services

Emergency: 24 Hours	**911**
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours	**284-5010**
Police Business Office:	**299-3220**
Hours:	**M-F: 8:00 - 12:00 & 1:00 - 5:00**

Addresses — Fax: 284-3169

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